

Nebraska

Rural Development • Community Programs • Water and Environment Program

Bellwood Village Residents Get Access to Clean and Sanitary Water

The Village of Bellwood's water storage facility was constructed in 1984 and was in dire need of updates. The previous water, and the water

distribution system is thought to have been constructed around 1940. The two wells in Bellwood were operated by an automated control panel located next to the water tower. However, the control system only operated one well.

The town's health need is evidenced by the water system's violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act requirements and its subsequent Administrative Order for arsenic. Because of the significant decline in water quality due to the excess flow of water from the Platte River, the



The newly constructed water treatment facility.

village qualified for an Emergency Community Water Assistance Grant (ECWAG), in addition to funding through the USDA Rural Development Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant program. At the time of the village's application for funding, one of the two wells had been taken off-line to be in compliance with a Uranium Administrative Order, and the other was unable to meet average and maximum day demands and had high levels of arsenic.

Because of available USDA resources, the residents of Bellwood were able to gain access to safe and sanitary water.

Village resident Matthew Gangwish shared, "The Village of Bellwood would like to thank USDA Rural Development for all the hard work in getting us this funding package so we can move forward in getting our water treatment plant built. This award will allow us to provide safe drinking water to the village."

Obligation Amount: Loan: \$414,000 and \$54,000 Grant: \$500,000 (ECWAG) and \$735,000

Date of Obligation: June 19, 2012 and November 27, 2013

Congressional District: Representative Fortenberry, District 1; US Senator Deb Fischer and US Senator Ben Sasse

Partners: None.

Demographics: Village of Bellwood residents.

Impact: New water system with low user cost. Quality water restored.